GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:509
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS AND EXPLOSIVES
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of smuggling of explosives, narcotics and other types of items are on rise in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any short term/long term policy has been formulated by the government to check such activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE)IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Smuggling being clandestine activity, it is not possible to state whether incidents of smuggling are on rise. However, the reports available as well as seizure trends of narcotic drugs, explosives and other contraband goods do not indicate any significant variation, in the recent past.

(c) & (d): To deal with smuggling of contraband goods, Customs Act, 1962 has been enacted, which apart from seizure and confiscation of smuggled goods, provide for penal action against smugglers including prosecution thereof. Besides, COFEPOSA Act, 1974 has been enacted to provide for preventive detention of persons indulging in organised smuggling activities. The Government also reviews deployment of anti-smuggling equipments such as baggage x-ray machines, Binoculars, metal detectors, arms & ammunition etc., deployed in the field formations, from time to time.

As regards drug trafficking, the Govt. of India has takena number of statutory and administrative measures, to counter the same, such as :

(i) Enactment of NDPS Act, 1985 and PITNDPSAct, 1988 which provide for stringent punishment including preventive detention, for those who are engaged in drug trafficking;

(ii) A number of Central & State Government enforcement agencies have been empowered to enforce the NDPS Act, 1985;

(iii) Setting up of a nodal agency at the national level, i.e., Narcotics Control Bureau, to coordinate and monitor drug law enforcement in the country;

(iv) Officers of various drug law enforcement agencies are trained on a regular basis in order to improve their effectiveness;

(v) India is a member of all the UN Conventions as well as SAARCconvention, which envisage multilateral cooperation against drug trafficking.